

Wits Trenchmour,  
In a conference had  
betwixt a Scholler and an  
*Angler.*

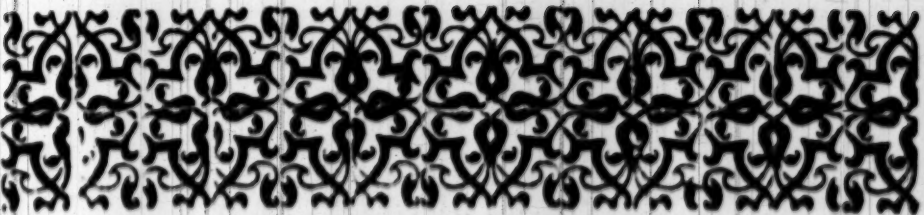
✂ Written by *Nich. Breton,*  
Gentleman.



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To the right Worshipfull and noble  
minded, the fauourer of learning and nour-  
sher of vertue, VVilliam Harbert of the Red Castle  
in Mountgambry-shiere, Esquire, the highest power  
of the heauens giue the happinesse of  
much honour.



*I f E humble seruice that in bounden dutie I doe  
owe vnto your honourable house, with the true re-  
port that I haue often heard of the noblenesse of  
your owne spirit, as well in regard of the learned,  
as fauour of the vertuous, haue made me presume  
to aduenture the pardon of your discretion, in offering to your pa-  
sience a president of so simple a wit, as dauncing a Trenchmour in  
the shadow of vnderstanding, dares not come, into the light with-  
out the comfort of your good countenance: to make a large gate  
to a little Towne, were but a mockerie to a traveller, & no praise  
to the builder: therefore referring to your good leysure the reading  
of a mad discourse, and to the happines of your good fauour the co-  
mandement of my better seruice, I take my leane in all humblenes.*

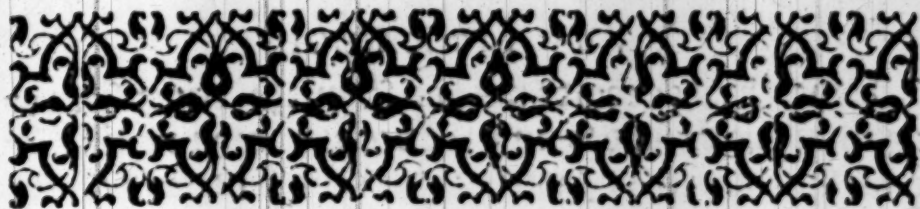
Your Worships ready  
at commaund,

Nich. Breton.

## *To the Reader.*

**H**E that will thinke in writing to please ail humors, must haue more varietie of inuention then one wit can hit on; for my selfe, I would be glad to please the best spirits, for other, I wish them more perfection of vnderstanding then lauishnesse of speech, and my selfe but the happines to bee out of the censure of the vnwise, which sith I cannot be, putting my labours to the viewe of the worlde, where all minds are not of one mould, nor all spirits of a like vertue, I will hope well of the best, and keep patience for the other; and so loth to make a long entry to a little house, I will leaue to your leysures to reade, & your curtesies to like, of such matter as you shall find handled, betwixt an Angler and a Scholler; how their talke came to light, & what you may gather of their discourse. And so in hast, from my lodging, I rest for this time, and alwayes as I finde cause:

Your louing friend,  
N. B.



## The Anglers conference with the *Scholler*.



Among the walkes of the wearie, where libertie and ayre, are the best comforts of the fozloze spirits of the world, it was the hap of a poore Scholler, (who feeding his imagination with the perswasions of contemplation, making his passage downe a falling peece of ground, some-what neere vnto a little hill, fast by a riuer side, whose streames seemed to slide along the banks of a lower platfoyme) to espy a humaine creature, standing vp right and holding out his arme ouer the water, whom approaching vnto somewhat neere, and finding to be an Angler, he saluted in this manner: True figure of patience, no offence to your conceit, howe might it fare with your colde exercise? The Fisherman (as it might appeare by his answer) being better trained in the varietie of vnderstanding then could be contained within the compasse of a casting nette, vpon the suddaine made him this replic: Shadowe of intelligence, to stay your further eloquence, when fooles gape for flies, madde men may goe a fishing.

Oh Sir (quoth the Scholler) I pray you enter not into choller, with him that meant not to trouble your better humour: but rather doe mee the fauour to instruct mee in the reason, that might leade you into thys looking labour, then to take mee vp for halting ere I come at my journeyes ende: I promise you I was halfe afraide, that Ouids tales would haue fallne out true, and that Narcissus, or some of his kindred, had ben so in loue with theyr owne



## VVits Trenchmour.

Shadowe, that hee coulde not goe from the River side : but comming nere, and finding the deceit of my imagination, confessing my folly, I am to craue your kindnes in a little conference, touching the profit of this colde pleasure, and what may be the fish that you angle for with a flie.

Sir quoth the fisherman, to turne wit into choller, is such a peece of newe Alkemie, as I neuer found witten in the true rules of Philosophy : and to tell truth, as I remember when I went to the schoole of vnderstanding, I found thys a sentence of discretion : It is but a trifling of wit, to bee troubling of humours : but sith you craue a fauourable instruction in a matter of small importance, being perswaded that your hast is not great, nor affaires waightie, if you will sit downe and heare mee company, wee will ferde the ayre with a little breath. My good friend, quoth the Scholler, (for so I would be glad to finde you) to confesse a truth, neither is my hast such, but I may stay well, if not too long to your liking, neither my affaires of such import, but that I may put them of for a time, to enioy the benefite of your good companie. Then sir quoth the fisherman, let me tell you, I sit heere as you see angling for a fish, and my baite a flie : for little fishes, as Bleakes, Roches, and such like, a flie will serue the turne : but for greater fishes, wee must find out greater baits : and with these flies wee catch such small frie, as serue to baite our hookes for greater fishes. Now, if you can apply this figure to a good sence, I will hold you for a good scholler in ciphering.

I cannot tell (quoth the Scholler,) howe you woulde I should interprete it, but this I conceive of it, that a childe may be wonne with an apple, when a Costermonger will not be pleased without a whole Orchard. I perceiue quoth the Angler, you are of Adams race, you thinke so much vpon the apple, that poisoned him & all his posteritie, but if one should examine your conscience, doe you not meane the golden apple : Which quoth the scholler : that which was offered

## VVits Trenchmour.

offered to Iuno, Pallas, and Venus. I thinke it to bee but a meere test, for surely in these daies, and in such Countreies as I haue passed my trauaile in, I neuer saw any creatures so angelicall, but they had spirits so terrestriall, that if a golden apple should be offered, it would be caught ere it could bee thought of: and therefore I pray you satisfie your selfe with this answer to your first figure, and so to other, as it will fall out. The Angler holding himselfe contented with this construction of his conceit, followed on with his speech in this manner. Some fishes there are that keepe altogether in the deepe, & they we must angle for with a worme, now to this worme we must haue a line of haire, as neere as we can of such a colour, as may best please the eye of the fish to play with. Now to this line we must haue a plummet, which must guide the baite to the bottom, which drawing now and then vp and downe, at length so pleaseth the fish, as ventring vpon the baite, answers the hope of our labour. Now what thinke you of this figure? Trulie Sir, quoth the Scholler, I thinke that when wit is ledde away with humors, reason may be intangled in repentance, and the pleasing of the eye, is such a plague to the hart, that the worme of conscience, brings ignorance to destruction, while in the Sea of iniquitie, the deuill angleth for his dinner.

The fisherman smiling at this answer, fell to him with another peece of angling, in this manner. We haue, quoth hee, a kinde of flye made onely of silke, which we make our baite for a fish called a Trowt, with which wee often deceiue the foolish thing, as well as with the flye it selfe. Alas sir quoth the scholler, this shewes but the vile course of the world, where wit finding out a foole, sedes his fancie with such illusions, as makes him some time loose himselfe, with looking after a shadow: as wordes are without substance, when they are layd for easie belauers.

Well sir, quoth the Angler, sith you roue so neere the marks of an unhappy meaning, I will not yet trouble you



## VVits Trenchmour.

with farther disciphering of conceits, but onely tell you a little cause of my pleasure taken in this cold exercise. Wherefore I had pleasure to learne this lesson of patience, to sit on a banke side, and onely pleasing my conceit with the hope of my cunning, to deceive a silly creature of her comfort. I saw diuers kinds of fishing in the world, which though they were easily learned, yet I had no minde to looke into; at least for mine owne vse, howsoeuer it profited other: but of these were diuers sundry sorts, and of diuers natures, according to the fishermen, or the fish that they baited for: of which kinds, according to the permission of time, I will acquaint you with a few, which I haue learned to forget, as vnplesing to put in practise. One kind was substantiall, another metaphoricall, and the third fantastickall. The substantiall was fishing with the golden hooke, which rich men onely layde in the deepe consciences of the conetens, where they plucked by such fauours, as brought them a world of commoditie: and yet I remember one more welthie then wise, having made a hooke of a great waight, which was swallowed by a wide mouth, the great fish puld the no little foole into the water, and eyther drowned him in the deepe, or so swallowed him by quick, that he was neuer seene after in the world.

Alas sir quoth the Scholler, this fellow was eyther too greedy of his gaine, or perswaded himselfe to be another Jonas, that after three dayes hee shoulde be cast out of the Whales belly, and come to shore with a Muscle boat: but hee was pittifully deceiued, for by all that I can geffe of him, he had but one syllable of his name, and that was the last, for he proued himselfe but an Ass, howsoeuer lone fedde his humour. Alas sir quoth the Angler, there are many such misfortunes in the world, a man may swallowe a Gudgeon, whilst he is fishing for a Dickrell, a leape a Whiting, whilst he is looking on a Codhead. Yea, quoth the Scholler, but that is soule play, that a man should lose his Roole



## VVits Trenchmour.

foole, while he is looking for a cushion, and be robb of his bread whilst he is reaching for butter. Indeed qd. the Angler you say true, when one sits by ill neighbours, hee had need looke to his skirts. But leauing these Items, let mee come to my first reckoning: fishing for the great fish I tell you, was wont to be with the golden hooke. Let the Permaids sing neuer so sweetly, they make no reckoning of theyr musicke, it is the golden hooke that they will onelie come vnto, and without that, it is but vaine to lay for a fish and catch a frog. Why, I haue heard of fishes that haue been made ozunk with a golden kinde of gum, that after they haue but tasted it in theyr mouthes, they haue turned vp theyr bellies. Now for such great fishes as I speake of, the very oyle of gold is of such vertue, as the quintessence of halfe a million, will so ouercome the senses of the that tast it, that they will turne vp both backe and belly, with the giddines of that operation.

Oh sir quoth the Scholler, a vengeance on the deuill, heere is a long tale quickly construed: Iacke of both sides for a bagge of money, where among the companie of the Brokers the deuill angleth for Usurers. But I pray you sir on with your fishing, and if you haue done with your substantiall, begin with your metaphoricall. Sir, quoth the Angler, in truth my store of gold is so little, that I care not if I speake no more of that hooke: and now, touching the metaphoricall fishing, I found it onely by wit, a conceited kind of hooke, that is onely layd in the shallow sence of vnderstanding, where kinde fooles are cosend with faire words of fine deuises: as a foule Crowe, to bee perswaded with eloquence, that shee is beloued for her white bill, till to seed: a flattering humour, shee leaue neuer a feather in her wing. Oh, quoth the Scholler, I vnderstand you, as hee that made faire wether with Vulcan, because hee would make faire worke with Venus. No, no, that is a foolish kind of fishing, to fish for a Codhead, and carry a knaues

## VVits Trenchmour.

head to the market. Oh brother quoth the Scholler, you are too plaine in your Aduerbs. In truth, answered the Angler, it is not woorthy the name of a Proverb: for euery note of experience is not a golden sentence, and yet giue a scold a Cocks combe, and let euery honest man haue his right: for my selfe, I neuer loued to angle for credite with a shewe of more sober countenaunce then simple meaning, for in truth brother, and verily sister, made the deuill daunce Trenchmour, where hipocrisie blew the bagpipe. Psea, quoth the Scholler, how catch you a Trowt but with a silken flye, and can you better deceiue a foole, then with a Tassatie face? Oh sir, laugh vpon euery man at the first sight, make a curtisie of the old fashion, say a long grace without booke, find fault with long haire, and great ruffles, and tell youth of his folly, and all imperfections of the flesh, shall be excluded from the spirit.

Oh sir, quoth the Scholler, you shoulde haue set downe probatum. a good medicine for a mad humour, to take phisicke without an Apothecarie, & to bleede in a lither vaine. Goe to sir, quoth the Angler, such fits of naturall philosophy, put you from your booke, and mee to mine angle: but leauing these new tricks of an old daunce, let vs fall again to our old galiard: and touching angling, say that a madde felow made a baite of a faire wench, to catch a soule churle withall, how many fauours might her sweete eyes plucke out of his sower hart? In deepe, quoth the Scholler, it is not a little treason in youth, to catch age in a wheelebarrow, especially when an Ape brings a Beare to sake honnie in a Bee-hiue. Well sir, said the Angler, what say you to him, that angleth with a counterfeite Diamond, to deceiue an ignozant Lapidarie. Alas quoth the Scholler, it is but a common Enterlude, betwixt the cunning of witte, and the folly of pride. Psea, quoth the Angler, but what say you of honestie? I think as foolcs doe of learning, it may be spared at the market, and hindereth the Country from good sport.



## VVits Trenchmour.

spoxt . In deepe Sir, quoth the Scholler, an Accidence in an olde couer, hath no grace in Court libzary . And a ballad be it neuer so good, it goes a begging after the Faire : and for honestie, it is such a iest, that euen the begger is wearie of it, it hath so little place among other people .

Oh sir, quoth the Angler, you forget your selfe, hath not vertus bene euer the beauty of learning, and honestie such a Badgc, as puts downe a painted Cognisaunce ? In deed, quoth the Scholler, I must confesse, *Olim meminisse iuuabit*, it doth mee good to thinke of honestie, though it thriue but illsaoueredly : for *Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis*, we may goe in our Jerkins in Sommer, but we must haue a Cloake for the Winter. Indeede I haue seene the deuill painted like a friar when he went to deceiue a Nun, and ludas looked like a holy brother, when hee played the villaine with his best Maister. Did you take these for fishermen, quoth the Angler ? But illsaouered ones qud. the Scholler, when the one of them layd his baite in hell, and the other followed his hooke to the deuill : and yet I haue heard it is a common note in the world, for friars to bee wanton, and rich men to be couctous.

Indeede quoth the Angler, you say well, *Mediocria firmo* : better be walking in the high-way, then building Castles in the ayre, or seeking Lobsters in the Sea: but let me talke with you further of angling. Say that Beggery had found out ambition, and laying a plot for his possession, neuer thought of honestie, till his villany were at an end, when the bewitching of an idle eare, may breed the losse of an adble head : what say you to this angling ? I say, quoth the Scholler, while the Peacock is gazing at his trayne, the fore wil be knitting of his hole-garters. Well sir quoth the Angler, sith I see you so merry with this metaphoricall kind of fishing, I will tell you a little of the fantastickall. This last kinde of angling is onely in conceit, where wit lacking vnderstanding, layeth his baite in a dzeame, to  
catch



## VVits Trenchmour.

catch a sole, when he is awake : as when an ouer-watching spirit of his owne power, wil compassse the course of the sea-uen starres, with staring only at the Moone, and so looseth the benefite of his studie. Oh sir quoth the Scholler, such a one was he that hauing a Doe in chace in his Cxop, when hee waked, found that a Calfes head and the braines, gaue but a Huntsman and his dogge theyr dinner.

Well sir, quoth the fisherman, there is another fantasti-call angling, called Quali, as if it were : As a mad fellowe in a poeticall furie, imagining he had a Mistres, made loue to his conceit. Oh quoth the Scholler, I know such a fellow, as making verses of Venus, who was better acquainted with the black Smith, forgetting his better businesse, and gaining nothing by his idle labour, found he had bene better to haue kept his wits fasting, then to cesen his belly of his bzeakefast. Well, quoth the Angler, what say you to him that baytes his hooke with a fained Ague, to steale fauour from Pitty. Indeed quoth the scholler, when women were wont to be kind-hearted, conceits in men were verie seuourous : and who could be so pittilasse, as to see the conswaption of a kinde humour, for a word of little good meaning. But now a dayes I hope there are no such men, knowing the nature of the semall sere, giuen rather to loue a strong body, then a strong bzeath, and a good purse, then a faire tale. Well said sir quoth the Angler, but what think you of him that angleth for authoritie, with a deuised countenance of counterfeited maiestie. I thinke quoth the scholler, that fisherman to bee the Asse in the Lyons skinn, whom the fere with long flattery leading to fear the Wolfe from his bozrough, no sooner hearde the Wile sounde her Trumpet, but he threw off his proud couer-paine, and ran home to his old Crib, like a tale souldiour at a course Panchet. Well sir quoth the Angler, but what say you of him that angleth for a Budget in the high-way? Oh sir, quoth the Scholler, such open-eyed sleepers, ere they bee well boade

## VVits Trenchmour.

broade awake, may hap to be hangd so; their dreame. In good earnest sir, quoth the Angler, I can not but smile at your pleasant answers: But since I see the Sunne decayeth downe apace, and I feare we shall haue shorter time of conference, then may be I hope with both our goodly kings, I will no further trouble you with these kinds of anglings: but after that I haue tolde you of the nature of some fishes, I will tell you a little tale of the chooling of their King. Sir, quoth the Scholler, your kindnes being such as expects no ceremonies in courtesie, let it suffice you, that what I friendly receaue, I will thankfully requite, which if I cannot as I would, I wil deserue as I may. Sir quoth the Angler, to make no long haruест of a little coyne, I will tell you touching the nature of fishes, I finde this by experience, that the Porpuse sildome playes, but it is a signe of foule weather. True, quoth the Scholler, a gentill Prognosticator, for him that is weary of his life: An. The Whale is neuer hurt, but he makes his will on the shore. Sch. Good: where his Dyle is better for the Merchant, then his body was for the Mariner. An. The Herings sildom scull, but in a thick misty moorning. Sch. A wholesome kind of meat, like the aire that he delights in. An. The Hackrell brings in Sommer, for he comes but in May. Sch. Like a Rose gay of flowers, that is no longer sweet then it is new gathered. An. The Stockfish must be beaten, yea: and then quoth the Scholler, it makes a iolly messe of brywes. An. The Cunger must be sowst, and the Cele in a Spechcock, or els they are not in their kind: In deed, quoth the Scholler, a raw Shrimp, and a burned Oyster, are no very pleasant dishes to digest: But me thinks this is but the nature of their dressings: You say well, quoth the Angler, for in deed all fishes are by nature windy: watry you would say, quoth the Scholler, for I am sure take them out of the water except it be hote water, & the wind will doe them little good: No, quoth the Angler, I meane winde in another



## VVits Trenchmour.

sence: Oh you meane eyther bꝛeꝛding of the chollicke, or blowing of the backpipe, but a good cup of Sack, will kill the malice of a red Herring: but Sir since, to tell you true, I take no great care of their conditions, having a stomack of that digestion, that was neuer afrayde of a raw Wyfter. I pray you let mee heare your tale of the choosing of the King: Sir, quoth the Angler, as I haue heard it I will tell you: in the unknowne deepes, of the wonderfull water, called the neuer sene Sea: when fishes could speake, and waues carried newes to the banckes of the earth to mocke the babies of the world, it was a noise in the ayre, that if there were not a King in the water, Frogs would eate vp the fishes, where-vpon poꝛe fooles holding an opinion, that wonders might come to passe, fell to a counsaile among them selues, how to chose a King for their comfort. For a little time great hold and shew was among them, in so much that there was a great feare of ciuill warres to grow among them. Some would haue the Whale for his greatnes, some the Dolphin for his swiftnes, other the Sword-fish for his stoutnes: but when the Whale was sene vnwily, though hee were great, the Dolphin was too nimble to trust to, and the Sword-fish too dangerous to dwell by: they no soner saw the Herring come with his million of attendants, but his readines to beare them company, at all times, and at all seruices, made them with generall consent to goe of his side, & so he receaued his tytle: But among the slow fishes that sliding low by the water, could make no hast to the Court, came, the Plaise with a pied coate: who had no little hope, that his cost would purchase him great honour: But bꝛing me by the way, by one that either pittied his expence, or laughd at his folly, he was told he might returne home againe, as he came: for the King was chosen, & allowed. Who (quoth the Plaise) the Whale, no: why so: He was vnwily, the Dolphin: no, and wherefoꝛe: He was too nimble: the Sword-fish: no:



## VVits Trenchmour.

no: for what cause? He was too quarrellsome: the Cobbe?  
neither: for what fault? He gaped so wide, his throat was  
full of flies: who then? The Herring: Herring (quoth  
the Plaise) wypping his mouth so in scoyne, that he could ne-  
uer since set it strait. And reason (quoth the Scheller)  
When a foole in a pyed coate, will be putting for a king-  
some: he must haue his mouth, or his necke, or somewhat  
it and alway euer after.

But Sir, for your tale I thanke you, for I haue heard it  
often, but not in this manner. But I pray you Sir let me  
intreate you, to tell me a little of the properties, and ser-  
uices of the fishes, especially, such Riuer fish as you take  
pleasure to angle for. I will tell you (quoth the Angler)  
for Sea-fish, I haue not bene acquainted with many: but  
so farre as I can speake I will tell you mine opinion. My  
iudgement is that the Porpuse is like a Swine, a great  
deuourer of Sprats, that makes him in taste so like a red  
Herring: and beeing serued at a table, he is a good grosse  
dish, for a coarse stomack. Olde Ling without musterd, is  
like a blew coate without a Cognisance, and a peece of  
Græne-fish with Sorell salwe, is no meane seruice in an  
Alehouse. A Whiting is so old a Courtier, that he cannot  
loose the credite of his seruice: Fresh Sammon, Sturge-  
on, and Conger, are no victuals for poore people, especially  
for weake stomacks, that must haue wine for their disge-  
stion. Oysters are stirring meate, especially with the help  
of an Onion: Mussles, and Lobsters, Crabs, and Eo-  
tus, are dangerous for Agues: Smelts are good for wo-  
men with child, and Shrimps are pretty picking meate,  
for idle people after dinner: now for Riuer fish which we  
chiefely call Fresh-fish. The Pike is so rauenous, that he  
will destroy a whole pond, and eate vp his fellow Pick-  
rell: mary the Bearch is so backed, that he dare not med-  
dle with his bystles: the Carpe feeds most in the night:  
the Cele euer Girs most after a raine, and the Wench is the  
only

## VVits Trenchmour.

only Surgeon for al the Booke: But for Roches, Bleaks, Dase, and such like, they are such little soles, that against euery little shower, they will be caught with a fly. For their seruices, a Pike in broath, a Carpe baked, an Cele roasted, a Tench sowled, a Swelt fried, and a Shrimp new sodden, are serued in their best kindes: but of all fishes, fresh, or salt, whatsoeuer opinion is held of dainty tastes. The Herring is he that passeth Towne and Countrey for a good fellow: and thus much for my knowledge in fishing. Now for the cause that first led me into the delight of this kinde of angling, I will tell you. When I found the substantiall angling, with the golden hooke, was sometime deuillish: the Metaphoricall with the conceited hooke, was often knauish, & the fantastickall, with the dreaming hooke, was foolish. I thought it better liuing, as I doe not farre hence, to walke from my house hether to the water side: and angle for a dish for my supper, then runne into the Towne I knowe not among whom, to gape like a Cods head, or so practise with a knaues head, that I may feare the deuill in my conscience, ere I haue halfe made my market for my dinner. In deede sir, quoth the Scholler, you say well: for when I was a Scholler in the Uniuer- sitie, many yeares agoe: mee thought solitarines was a swete life, it did so auoide occasions of euill: but leaving my study, and falling into a little trauaile, I haue runne into such a world of varieties, that finding all vanities but vertue, I had rather walke as I doe sometime, to contem- plate the hopes of the blessed, then to runne vp and downe among the confusions of the wicked. Truly sir, quoth the Angler, I am glad to heare a Scholler make so good a be- nefite of his study: as hauing escaped the snares of the de- uill, as it seemes you haue, that you are so adicted to serue God, as I hope you doe: but since you haue bene both a Scholler and a trauailer, I beseech you let mee be behol- ding to you, for a little both of your learning & experience.

Sir,



## VVits Trenchmiour.

Sir, quoth the Scholler, is acquaint you a little with my learning, you shall vnderstand, that after such time as I had passed the Pannies forme, that I had gone through the rules of my Grammer, reade ouer a little Poetry, and knew the grounds of Logick, I fell to the study of Philosophy, where finding Nature such a Mistres, and Reason such a Maister, that they could not agree without patience, I tooke no little delight to note the deuiding of the quarrell. Furthermore I found such secrets by obseruation, as I would not haue missed for a mountaine: As how, I pray you, quoth the Angler? Marry, quoth the Scholler, I will tell you: touching the quarrell first I will tell you. It is in the rules of Philosophy, that contraries cannot at one time be in one subiect: which we see other wise doe fall out in a man, that warmes his hands, and cooles his pottage, and all with one breath. Yea, quoth the Angler, so a knaue may flatter his Maister, and abuse his friend, and all with one tongue: but what of that? I pray you goe on: howe decide you the quarrell? I will tell you, quoth the Scholler, by onely Magis, and Minus, for in respect of the cold, it is warme, and in respect of the fire it is cold. Oh, quoth the Angler, I vnderstand you by a Candle: which in the dark giues a pretty light, but in the Sunne it goes out. True, quoth the Scholler, so is a soale held wise, among wits of weake vnderstanding: but in the iudgement of discretion, he is quickly decided. Now the next point that I learned in naturall Philosophy, was this: Naturam expellas furca, licet, vsque recurret: That which is bred in the bone, will neuer out of the flesh. In dede, it is hard to turne black into any other colour: But after kinde will be euer good House hunt. In dede, quoth the Angler, a Jack-daw is neuer like a Tassell-gentill: but by your leaue, what was your next note? This, quoth the Scholler, Contra principia non est disputandum: Which is this in effect. There is no disputing against principles. Oh, quoth the Angler, you



## VVits Trenchmour.

meane with Princes, and good reason, for their prerogatives are great, and therefore their powers must be absolute, their displeasure feared, and their wills obeyed. In deede, quoth the Scholler, you say true, he is higher minded, then witted, that will contend with his superiors: but that is not the sence of this sentence. There be some Rascalls called Athiests, that will dispute against the maiesty of God. Oh, quoth the Scholler, leaue them to the mercy of the deuill: and as you say hee that is so conceited of his wit, as to goe from all good vnderstanding, let him goe hang himselfe in his own Schoole, and God bleſſe me from his learning. Amen, & me to, quoth the Scholler: but now to an other point: A particulare ad generale: non est tenenda ratio: Though one man be truly harted, every knaue is not to be trusted. No, quoth the Angler, for one Swallow makes not Sommer: the Priest may be an honest man, and yet many a knaue in the Parish: and Virgine wax is for Christmas lights, which is not solde by every Chandler. True, quoth the Scholler, some men growe wealthy with good conscience, but it is not generall in these dayes. But to leaue these sentences, I will tell you further of my learning. I finde by my reading, that man was compounded of the foure Elements, of fire, water, earth, and ayre. Now, quoth the Angler, is it possible: The fire drinke by the water, and the earth dry by the aire, and when they are consumed, what is left to make man of.

Oh sir quoth the Scholler, I thus vnderstand the foure Elements, Choller, Fleame, Blood, and Melancholie. In deede quoth the Angler, I thinke you say true, a chollerick fellow, will be angrie with his owne shadowe: and a flegmatick woman, hath her nose euer snorping: a melancholie soule, is like a dreame of a dry Sommer: and a sanguine faced youth, wil blade at the nose if he see a faire woman. Oh sir quoth the scholler, you speake merrilie, but let mee tell you, the chollerick man is soone angrie, and soone pleased:

## VVits Trenchmour.

sed : the flegmatick, is a better land man then a sea man : the sanguine, is a fine Courtier : and the melancholie , a great student. Just quoth the Angler : the chollericke is like a hastie pudding, soone hote, soone cold : the flegmatick is like a Culles, consumed into iclly : the sanguine like a Cherrie tart, that would say come eate mee, ere I came at it : and the melancholie, like a browne loafe that had bene halfe burnt in the baking. Truly sir quoth the Scholler, I haue not often heard such descant vpon a plaine song : but let mee tell you , that without the knowledge of these grounds, it is hard for the Whistion to minister cure of a disease. Well quoth the Angler, what soeuer you note by your reading, this I finde by obseruation, that fire is good in Winter, and water in Sommer, ayre sweet in y<sup>e</sup> spring, and earth most comfortable in the harvest : and good cheere and honest company, makes a merry hart, and a sound bodie. I like not to study too farre into Nature, to forget God, or to confound reason : indecde if Whistions cannot iudge of simples, they may thinke of Coin, but they shall come by few pounds. But yet for all my iesting, I pray you goe on with your good instructions.

Well sir then qd. the scholler, the next was this, Natura semper gignit sibi similem : an Eagle neuer hatcht an Owle, nor of a Lyon came a Monkie. True qd. the Scholler, a bird is commonlie knowne by his feather, for euerie long bill is not a Woodcock. So quoth the Angler that is true, and yet maister Constable may be wealthy, and his sonne an vnthrift. Sh quoth the scholler, hee may perhaps take after the Mother, who did eate by her Creame when she should haue kept it for Butter : but to tell truth, a Greyhound and a Pastiffe neuer breede but a mungrell. But I will tell you further of my notes : I learne the propertie, qualitie and effect of manie things, as first and chieselic of Man. Reason is proper to euery man , honestie to many a man : now reason with honestie, effects credite with com-  
menda-



## VVits Trenchmour.

mendation. Well said qd. the Angler, and contrariwise, a man may haue reason to enrich himselfe, but if his qualitie be to be a thiefe or a Traytoz, the effect will be shame and hanging, if he chaunce to scape hell after. Very true quoth the scholler : but now in other things, as in Corne, to grow is the property, to make bread his quality, and his effect is our nouriture. But quoth the Angler, if the ground be not well tilled, the seed well sowne, and the dowe well kneaded, you may happen as good be fasting, as to keepe your stomacke for a loafe : but what say you of quantitie : Indeed quoth the Scholler you say true : a good quantitie of monie, will help to grace a little wit, but I haue seene one no higher then a horse-loafe, wiser then a world of wormes-meat. But indeede according to the quantitie of your Koses, you must looke for your sweet water from your Still. Oh sir quoth the Angler, you meane according to the quantitie of your wit, you must looke for the sweete of your inuentions. Sir quoth the scholler, how soeuer my inuentions are, I am sure yours are so quicke, that if I were againe to goe to schoole, I would be glad of such a Maister. Well qd. the Angler, flattery is an idle poynt of Rethoricke, and therefore, I pray you let me intreate you to giue me leaue to bee merry with you, and craue a few of your notes vpon your Horrall philosophy. Sir quoth the scholler, in brieft, with thanks for your kindnes, I will graunt your request : My first note was, that Omnes sibi melius esse male quā alterio : Euery man had rather be his owne friende than his neighbours. Oh qd. the Angler, but that is a rule against good fellowship.

Why so, quoth the scholler, I think he that will not provide for his owne breakfast, can hardly bid his friende to dinner. Well sir quoth the Angler, what say you to your sentence in this sence : A young louer in a cold night, gaue his wench his cloake, and went himselfe in his doublet in the raine. I say quoth the scholler, loue is deerer then lyfe, and



## VVits Trenchmour.

and therefore, the being the summe of his harts ioy, hee preferred his Mistres before himselfe, according to the custome of kinde harts. Oh quoth the Angler, such Louers in deede are pretty fooles, like the bird that flies in the ayre, and suffereth his henne, to hatch her egges on his backe, while hee flies vp and downe, for meat for her dinner. But in deede to tell you truth, neerer is my skin then my coate, and that is the plaine sence of your sentence. Well then qd. the scholler, to goe on with another note: *Erustra sapit qui non sapit sibi*: He is a foole for all his wit, that is not wise for himselfe. Indeed quoth the Angler, he that will till his neighbours ground, before he hath done with his own, may happen to haue Cozne in the fielde, when other haue theyr haruest in the Barne. Indeed sir quoth the Scholler, hee that doth for other, for I thanke you, till hee say to himselfe I bestow you, he may haue more kinde wit, then common vnderstanding: but by your leaue, among many that haue been students in this course of instruction, I finde one notable vile creature, whose philosophy I may rather call mortall then morall, his notes are so full of poyson, to the spirit of all good disposition: and this good old Gentleman, his name was Machauile.

Oh quoth the Angler, a vengeance of all villaines, I thinke there was neuer such another, hee hath left such deuillish lessons to the worlde, that I thinke hee will hardlie come at heauen. I pray you sir, quoth the Angler, let mee intreate you to recite some of them. I will tell you sir qd. the scholler, among many notes that I tooke out of diuers places of his discourses, I remember this was one of the first: That it was good for a man of conscience to keep the bands of his oath: and yet when pollicie may purchase a good purse, an oth hath been venterd for a lesse matter then a million. Ang. O bace companion, a fit steward for the deuill, to bring soules into hell. A gentle instruction to persuade a couctous spirite, to bring the body and soule to de-

D.

struction.

## VVits Trenchmour.

strudion. But by your leaue, he that will venture his owne soule, shall haue nothing to doe with my bodie. Well, what was the next note? Mary quoth the Scholler, that fathers in their gouernment should be feared of theyr Chyl- dren: But quoth the Angler, I am not of his minde in that poynt: for loue breeds more assurance then feare dooth co- fort. But what els? Sch. That it is good for Maisters to be bountifull to their seruaunts, were it not, that Keepers will say, that fatte hounds will hunt but lazilie. Pca quoth the Angler, such lessons as these, driues so many poore ser- uing men, that pay for their owne liucuries, to runne on the skore for their breakfasts. But I pray you what more? Sch. That he that will not curstie to a Millstone, make mu- sick to an Owle, daunce trenchmore with an Ape, and fall to wonder at a Wether, cocke, may hope after nuts, and pick on shells for his comfort.

Tush man qud. the Angler, are these of his notes? Not in these wordes, but to this effect answered the Scholler. Andred quoth the Angler, now that I doe remember me, I thinke he that can carry a Ring in his mouth, a booke vn- der his arme, a penne in his eare, and a knife in his pocket, may hap to make himselfe good cheere, when better minds may misse their dinner: but on with your notes I pray you. Sir quoth the Scholler, I will tell you, I red in certaine notes of a scholler of his, that a man that will thriue in the world, must haue his eye vpon one, his hand vpon another, his foote vpon the third, and his tongue for the fourth: but he must not set his hart vpon any of them: for if he grow in loue with a woman, or in league with a friend so farre, that he commit his secrets to his keeping, his head is vnder an others girdle, his purse at an others commaund, and his wits in an others keeping: and then, for lack of a little dis- cretion, he may euen goe currant for a scoule. Oh this was a pretty scholler at the deuills Alphabet, quoth the Angler, was not Timon of Athens one of the fathers of his church? who



## VVits Trenchmour.

who gaue counsaile to the afflicted to hang themselves for their comfort. I thinke he was quoth the scholler : but God blesse euery good spirit from such a wicked kind of humoꝝ : But to goe on, I red further, that it was no little praise of wit, to finde out a prodigall heire to vse him like a younger brother : and if there were euer a Lawyer of a large conscience, what a bribe might doe for a conuenance. Oh quoth the Angler, the pillary is a fit window for such villaines to looke out at. But are these the best notes that you remember in his studie ? Not the best quoth the scholler, noꝝ the worst, but as they come into my head, I tell you them. I pray you sir quoth the Angler, haue you not bene a little red in historiographie, oꝝ doe you not remember anie pretty accident that hath fallne out in your trauaile, which in the discourse of your kindnes might doe well to entertaine the tyme with ?

Trulie quoth the Scholler, I was neuer any great historian, neither hath my trauaile beene long, yet haue I seene moze then I haue read : but of cyther, as time will giue mee leaue, I will tell you a little to laugh at. First touching histories, oꝝ rather indeed fained tales, as good as fables, I red in a booke whose Authoꝝ I haue forgotten, a discourse of a man whose name I found not written, but sith the matter is somewhat fresh in memoꝝy, I will as neere as I can recite it, and thus it was. There was an old man of moze age then grace, who hauing spent all his youth in byzding, fell in his elder yeeres to Conny-catching, but when the arrest of Time, brings the long day to a darke night, that no coine coulde make excuse, for none appearance vpon the sommon, Death would be satisfied with no aunswere, but depart : thys old fellow, hauing a young son, much after the greedy humoꝝ of his grosse Sire, befoze hee ended his life, close at his bedds side deliuering him vp the keyes of his Coffers, left him thys lesson for a farewell : My boy qd. he, if thou wilt be wise and take heede, I leaue thee



## VVits Trenchmour.

enough to keepe thee like a man, and therefore looke to thy selfe, for when thy money is gone, thou maist goe hang thy selfe for any helpe thou shalt haue of thy friends, flatter thee as many as list, as there be knaues enough in the worlde, to finde out a foole ere he be halfe bzed: but marke wel my words, make much of money, for tis a ic well in these daies. If thou haue land and money, a faire house, and a good purse, then, if thy nose stood in thy forehead, and thine eyes in thine elbowes, thy head like a pauerd cause betwene two thinne growne hedges, nere a good tooth in thy head, good word in thy mouth, no good thought in thy hart, yet if thou hast thy purse well lined, thou shalt haue prayers of the begger, a curtisie of thy follower, welcom of thy friend, and perhaps a glaunce of a faire Lady: if not, thou shalt haue a wench that shall ride as merrily to the market, as if she were sette on a side saddle of the best fashion. Nowe, if thy money bee gone, the begger is thy companion, the foole bids thee welcome to a Descod, the knaue stands & laughes at thee, and the honest man, perhaps more pitties thee the releues thee: the proude man scornes thee, thy vertues are buried, thy name is forgotten, thy qualities are trifles, thy learning but lost, thy wit but folly, and thy honestie put to no vse: thy friend regards thee not, thy wench knowes thee not, and thy foe spares thee not: and thou art left to sorrow to make an end of thy miseries, or by some desperat course to fall into Gods forbid. And therefore my boy make much of thy money, it will bring thee musick when thou art melancholie, phisick when thou art sick, & company when thou art solitary. Remember what I say, looke to the maine chaunce: Aurum portabile wil fetch him to life that is halfe dead. Be true to thy Prince for feare of hanging: bee not busie with religion for feare of trouble: Strive not with power for feare of a fall, and spende not thy money for feare to goe a begging: Loe, this is all I haue to say to thee, oh I haue a paine at my hart, and so ge die.

Why

## VVits Trenchmour.

**W**hy quoth the Angler, did hee neuer bidde him serue God, noꝛ call himsele on him foꝛ comfort? Alas quoth the Scholler, how could he thinke on God, and the deuill alway so neere him? Well quoth the Angler, wee must not iudge any man, but I woulde be loth to be his halfe at the day of Dōme. But I pray you what other pretty hystoꝛy oꝛ deuised tale haue you read in some other humoꝛ, that may serue the turne to passe away the time withall. Sir quoth the Scholler, I haue red many pretty toyes, too tedious at this time to call to memoꝛy, but among all I remember one pretty discourse of a Lady and her seruauent. Oh quoth the Angler, I beloeue tis a loue tale, if it be it shall be welcome. Foꝛ, to tell you true, though I be in this tyme of my declining youth, an vnfit dauncer in such a Poꝛtice, yet let me euer loue musicke, though I cannot tune a virginnall: it is a good confirming of my repentance, to heare a president of my imperfection. Then sir qd. the Scholler, thus it was, oꝛ at least was said to be. In the Iland of ill foꝛtune, where idle heads seeke foꝛ fauours, and vertue hath little countenance, where money is the great Monarch, it fell out that in the court of the Duke of Calliflorida, among many creatures of wooꝛthy commendation, there was one especiall faire Lady of so honourable a spirit, and excellent a wit, as gaue the wise admiration, in her conference, and the valiant, happines in her fauour: this pure Diamond among a number of faire iewels, I meane this kinde of Angelicall creature, among a troope of sweet Ladies, as shee coulde not but be honoured of many, so was shee especially followed with the affectionate seruice of one wooꝛthy Caualliero, aboue many other: much there was to bee commended in them both, but let this foꝛ my discourse suffice, shee was exceeding faire and wise, and he no lesse kinde then trulie valiant, but as it seemed by that which was written of them, his vnderstanding was inferiour to her wit, whose beautie had the command of his resolution.



## VVits Trenchmour.

Long had this poore Gentleman with the silence of lone followed this princely Lady: who more favouring his discretion, then reuealing her owne conceite, tooke this occasion one faire euening in a pleasant Garden, to single her selfe from company, and in a solitary walke, espying her seruant all alone, met him sodainly at a halfe turne, when putting vp her Hask to salute his reuerence with a word of fauour, as though her coming thether had bene by chaunce, which was done in deede effect purpose, shee entertained the time with this speech.

Sir, quoth she, thus you see the curse of the world: each conceite hath his crosse, and a woman a crosse conceite to a thousand. I am sure you little thought, choosing out this solitary walke, for the better passage of your meditations, to meete so unhappily, and vnlooked for, with the subiect of so much trouble. The poore Gentleman little expecting either so kinde a companion, or so sweet a speech, with no little gladnes, made the Lady this aunswere. Good Madam, to make a trouble of comfort, were so vnkinde a construction of happines, as howsoeuer other conceiue of it, I desire not to be acquainted with it: but when the hart of a poore Shouldour, had rather with his sword make way for his Mistres honour, then with his tongue for his owne fauour, Let me humbly perswade so farre with your good discretion, that if in the kindnes of your commaund, you will vouchsafe the employment of my seruice, I doe not doubt but that in the praise of my action, you will easily see my affection, which in the onely hope of your good countenance, shall set vp the rest of my worlds honour: To which short speech the Lady no lesse quicke witted, then well reade, made him this sodaine aunswere. Oh sir, Shouldours generally are of that imperious humour, that they had rather commaund a looke then yeld to a tittle: and in mine opinion, if Cupid were now aliue, Mars would cut his bowstring, ere he should doe any good with his arrowes, so  
that

## VVits Trenchmour.

that by want of the company of good spirits, Ciana might keepe alone in the Woods, while Venus might make her will in her Chamber. Truly Madame, answered the Knight, I know not what sed the Poets wits, to faine such fables as are witten: but for my selfe while in your vertue, I behold the obiect of my honour, I will rather diuote my service to your worthines, then trouble my selfe with trifles that I dare not trust, as are the fictions of idle heads, or the painted couers of inward imperfections. Sir Knight quoth the Lady, by the little sight of our eye, wee behold a great circuite of the earth: and shall not the spirit of our vnderstanding through the eye of our minde, behold the light of that truth, that may leade the care of our reason, to the content of our conceite? I hope the best: and though as a mist may dim the sight of the eye, and dissembling the sence of the mind, yet for that I will try befoze I doubt, and commaund befoze I fauour: let the patience of your discretion attend the pleasure of my employment: and for all courses what soeuer fall out, if I doe you good, be glad, not proud of it, and open not your window to the Sunne, when she hath power to sende her beames through the glasse: and so not entertaining your service, till I may acquaint you with my best content: I pray you walke aside for this time: For I see a Gallant, that I must talke with, and will sone be rid of. The good Knight vnwilliug, by any motion of discontent to put out the fire, that was now in kindling with humble thanks tooke his leaue, and left his Lady to her new Louer: who no soner came nere her, but obseruing all fine ceremonies, with kissing his hand, in putting off his hat, with a Palla measure pace comming toward her sweet presence, grates her with this salutation. Faire Ladie, the Quintessence of your beauties excellence, hath so enflamed the spirit of my affection, that except I haue fauour in your eyes, my hart will surely consume to ashes: and therefore if my service may haue ac-  
ceptation



## VVits Trenchmour.

ceptation in your contentment, I will not be behind with my good will to execute the office of your commaund. The Lady with a blushing smile at this wise Gentlemans formality, made him this quicke and quipping aunswere. Sir, if your new coyned eloquence were not too farre out of the way of mine vnderstanding, I would fit you an aunswere to your motion: but since silence can best talke with wooden Rethoricke, I pray you sir if you haue any thing to say to me, let me plainely know your meaning: Why, quoth this Whippet, if I should tell you I loue you, and you beleue it not, if you beleue it, and yet regard it not, if you regard it, and yet confesse it not: what shall I be the better to speake plainliar then I haue reason? Well sir, quoth the Lady, to this aboundance of little wit, if I did like to study vpon such Riddles, I should perhaps trouble my selfe to finde out a fit aunswere for the cipher of reason. But to tell you plaine, your loue I knowe not, your selfe I loue not, your words I regard not, and how you take it I care not: But if you haue any thing to say to any other ende, I will heare you as I thinke good, and aunswere you as I see cause. Why then Madam, quoth he, to tell you plaine, my Lord your Father saw you out of his window walking with Signor Felio, and vpon the sodaine willed me to come for you. Well sir, quoth the Lady, nothing dismaide at the message, I am ready to attend his pleasure, though I wish he had sent a fitter seruant to mine humour. But to make as short tale as I may sending word by this odde Gallant, that he would forthwith attend his pleasure, calling to her a Gentlewoman, that shee saue sitting in an Arbour somewhat nere vnto her, taking her in her attendance, away shee goes to her good Father, who with a naturall kindnes dissembling his discontent, in suspect of the talk had betwixt her and Don Felio, with a smiling countenance entertained her with this welcome: taking her by the hand, and leading her into his Gallery, he began in priuat thus

## VVits Trenchmour.

thus to fall in talke with her. My best girle, whom aboue all the childezen that I haue, I most esteeme in the true ioy of my hart, and well woozthy, for thy good caridge in all courses, as well for thy dutie towards mee, as thy reputation in the woold, I must confesse, I neuer had cause to suspect thy discretion in anie cause of dislike, but if a Fathers care procure a kinde of iealousie, excuse the error in abundance of loue, and tell me truth to a question that I wil put vnto thee. The sweet Ladie, not willing to delay her Father with long circumstance, with a modest countenance, not once altering her colour, but keeping the care of her wit, intreated his commaundement of her dutie: who in kinde manner made her this speech. I haue bene heere in my Gallary walking most part of this euening, and looking out at one of these windowes, I espied Don Felio all alone, walking a turne or two in the long walke, where hee had bene but a while, when you found him in his Muses, and entertained him, or he you, I knowe not with what conference. The man is one that I loue, and will be gladder to preferre to any honour that he deserueth, but I pray thee tel mee, what was the substance of your talke?

Truely Father, quoth Madam Fianta, for so was her name, I would gladly tell it you if I might presume vpon her patience, and not doubt your displeasure, I will acquaint you with as much as I can remember. The Duke expecting another matter then he deliuered, with a dissembled countenance of promised content, willed her boldlie to say her minde. Then good Father quoth the Lady, thus it is: little thinking to find any creature in that walk, where singling my selfe from my company, I tooke my Booke of Daphilles in my hand, and meant to contemplate some diuine contentations, being nere vnto him ere I was aware, and loth either to disgrace him with entreating his absence, or vpon the suddaine to withdrawe my selfe from his companie, in such good maner as it might well beseme him,

C.



## VVits Trenchmour.

him, he saluted me with this speech. Honourable Ladie, I am sozry that it is my ill happe to become a trouble to your contentiue solitarines: but howe doth my good Ladie, and your good father? Him quoth I, in good health I left not long since, and my selfe you see, not troubled with good companie: but what shoulde make Don Felio to chuse thys solemne place for his solace? Alas Hadam, quoth the poore Knight, I dare speake to your Ladiship, who in the pitty of your vertue haue ever bene a good furtherer of all suites of your fathers seruants: so ill hath ben my hap, that after the spending of many yeeres, loosing of no little blood, and wasting of some part of my little substance, nowe there is no vse for me in his warres, to make my aduventure vppon the enemye, my yeeres growing to that height, that I must befoze the declining of my best age, put my wits to some worke for the better reliefe of my poore carkasse, and maintaining of my meane estate: hauing had a long sute vnto him, which by the crosnesse of my backe friends I am almost now out of hope to enioy, I am deuising not far hence nere vnto the Cittie, in a large Orchard that I haue belonging to my house, to set vp an Ape-baiting: which being a new matter, and neuer in practise, at least, that euer I haue heard in this Countrie, will tole a world of wise people together, who shall pay euerie one for his comming in, howsoeuer they repent it at their going out: nowe I will tell you in what maner it shall be. I will haue an Ape tied to a great logge, which shall be rounde about besette with Bee-hiues, and when the Ape is sette among them, his nature is to catch at any thing that buzzeth in his care, now when one Bee hath bene about him, and hee fall to catch and misse, that Bee will bring another, and that another, till in a little time Jacke will be so stunge, that what with mowing, crying, and skipping, he will make sport enough for a penny. Now befoze the sport begin, there shall at the enterance into the Garden sitte a blinde man, and a deafe woman,

## VVits Trenchmour.

woman, disputing an argument of loue, and at the further end of the Alley, a Bagpipe and a Cittern, play Trenchmoure to a Winkers dogge. Now will not this do well for a deuise, to helpe a pooze man to a little mony?

Nowe he Sir, quoth I, lay away this melancholy humour, I will rather be your friend to my Father, and help you to a farre better matter, then you shall purchase by this badde or base inuention: and therefore I pray you to lay aside your determination in this poynt, till you heare further from mee of my Father.

The good olde Prince, little thinking his pretty Honkie could vpon the suddaine haue deuised this Apith tale, giuing credite to her discourse, made her this ioyfull answer. My deere Fianca, I must confesse, he hath had back-friends in his fortune, yet hath not his desert lien dead in my fauour: for no longer then yesterday, haue I signed, and caused my seale to be set to the graunt of his sute, which to morrow thou shalt giue him, with my purse full of gold, for he is one that I loue deere lie, how soeuer I make shew of lesse matter: soone at night forget not to come to me for it. And so with a few other good words, left her to her best company to her liking: who the next morning, hauing receiued her fathers blessing, with his bountifull tokens of fauour to his seruant, secretlie sent to the Knight, to meet her in the walke where he left her. The message not a little welcome, made him not long in comming to his deere Mistress, of who receiuing for the terme of thre score paces, the gift of a statelie house, with diuers goodly Lordshippes and Parks to the same belonging, with his purse full of mony, the better to defray his charges, with humble thanks to his gracious Maister, and no lesse to his deere Mistress, who had thoroughly acquainted him with the course shee had taken for him, according to her secret direction hastend himselfe into the Country, where after a few loue-letters that had passed betwixt them, within a little time the Duke



## VVits Trenchmour.

died, and his daughter (with her dowrie) made a match with her true knight. Oh fine tale quoth the Angler, made vpon the fingers ends: so it coulde not be but there were many crosse tricks in the Cardes ere the game went about, but you see the time is short, and therefore you doe well to abridge the best. But now Sir, if in kindnes I may, I pray you let mee intreat a little of your tranaille, what you haue noted in your passage to and fro. Sir quoth the Scholler, to tell you a little heere & there what I haue seene and noted, I am contented: and therefore to be short, I will tell you in one Country where I came I saue a strange wonder: so where as in many other Countries men did vse to eate vp the sheepe, in that Country sheepe had eaten vp both the men & their houses. For in the pastures, where I saue great flocks of sheepe feeding, I might nere vnto certaine fote-pathes, behold heere and there a peece of an olde stone cause, which had been in times past some strate or by lane, in some Towne or Village, but nowe there was neither house nor towne, nor man left, moze then the Sheepheard, and his sheepish Daister to looke vpon them: this was one of my first notes. In an other Country I found by h speech of the people, a great alteration of men, so a number of Gentlemen of auncient race, by the wretched course of fortune, or folly of their owne or theyr friends indiscretion, were gone from the Court to the Cart, and the sonne of what lacke you, was become the onely right woorthipfull. This is my second note.

Well Sir quoth the Angler, touching your first note, let me tell you, that the Wethers woll sticks not in the Graiers teeth, and a good purse with quiet, makes one plough worth two swords. But on I pray you with some moze of your notes, so I like these very well. I will tell you quoth the Scholler, in one Country where I came, I saue the Woods so byaue it with great trees, and the Barnes so flourish with sheaues of Cozne, that a number of pooze people dyed

## VVits Trenchmour.

died with hunger and cold. Alas quoth the Angler, that is too common in many Countries: but indeede it is pittie to see such dogged mindes among Christians, or at least, such as make profession of Christianitie: but on I pray you with your discourse. In an other Country quoth the Scholler, I saw one yere such bloodshed, that there hath been warres there euer since. Alas quoth the Angler, the massacre in Paris can be your witnesse for that truth: where the deuill and the Pope made the Duke of Guise the chiefe murterer. In another Country quoth the scholler, I sawe men given so to drinke, that God to punish theyr sinne, drowned a great part of the Land.

You say true, quoth the Angler, they that poure so much liquoz into their owne bellies, deserue to haue some water in their beds: but procede I pray you. In an other Country I saw many pretty accidents, though of no great importance, yet worth the noting: of which one I remember, which I am perswaded will make you smile to heare, if at the least I can hit nere the manner of it, as I heard it. I pray you hartily quoth the Angler, let me be beholding to you for it. Not so, quoth the Scholler, but to content your kindnes, thus it was. Having trauailed long vpon a rainy day, and after a weary iourney being somewhat wet, come into mine Inne, being brought into the Parlour to mine Host, who it seemed by his Hape-furd short gowne, to be the Officer for that Parish, I meane the pinching of bread, and nicking of pots, besides, imprisoning of theues, carrying beggers to the stocks, and watching of the Towne at midnight, that it ranne not ouer the bridge, for lacke of a gate to keepe it in before morning, and keeping the key of the Cage, and the Cucking-stole, after the manner of some soymall Constable: this substantiall Peoman, who as it should seeme to be the Sonne of some flesh-monger, as Buttons, Bases, and such like commodious kinde of Beasts, who together with his In-  
C 3 keeping,



## VVits Trenchmour.

keeping, and the helpe of Paide Parian, a good Hostes to draw on gesse, could with his grosse robe, making a night gowne of an Ore-hide, keepe himselfe warme in a colde Winter, and purchase not onely the house that he dwelt in, for this young Gentleman his biggest Seruice, but some olde Kuddocks for his young Woiles, hauing brought vp this his heire for sometime at the fra Schole, and a little before his death put him to the Vniuersity, made this cipher of wise doone, to obserue his Fathers rule, in the education of a Sonne of his, who a little after my coming in, came home to his Father from the Academie, as it seemed, being sent for by his Parents, against the Christmas hollidays, to be posed by Maister Parson: but to be short, after wee had supped, mine Host calling for a chaire for himselfe, and an other for me, to enuiron a good warme banke, of Sea-coale fire, few gesse being that night in the house, began to examine his Sonne of his study in this manner. Come hether Sirra, how haue you spent these fine last yeares, that I haue borne at no little charge wth you for your learning? Let me heare you what haue you read, since you gaue ouer your Grammer, and your Cato, and those toyes. Sir, quoth the Boy, with a crooked curtisie, I first read Logick: Logick, quoth the old man, a vengeance on it, what should you doe with it, an onely cunning of wit to play the knaue with a plaine meaning: a proper trick of treason, to maintaine a lye against truth. Well, what next? Forsooth, quoth the Boy Rethorick: iust quoth the old man, an other fine pece of learning to teach a lewd minde to paint out a false tale with faire words: but what more? Forsooth, quoth the Boy, the next was naturall Philosophy. What, quoth he, dost thou meane to be a Philition? Use abstinence, and keepe good diet, and care not a pin for the Apothicary. But on with the rest: what else? Forsooth, quoth he, Morall Philosophy: What, quoth the old man, to learne to leare, and looke bigge, to curtisie, and

## VVits Trenchmour.

and kisse the hand, to be at your silver foxke, and your pick-  
tooth: Sirra, it is not for your Fathers sonne, to trouble  
his head with these trifles, your Father followes the Cart,  
and thou art not shaped for a Courtier: but well, is this  
all: or is there any more yet? Yea forsooth, quoth the yong  
man, I haue reade a little of Arithmatique: that quoth  
the olde Sir, I shall finde by the account of your battai-  
ling: where, if In primis. and Item, make Totalis, above  
allowance, I will take you from your booke, and teach you  
another profession: but what else? Forsooth quoth hee, I  
haue a little looked into Musique. How now, quoth his  
Father, what, art thou mad, to be a fidler? A head full  
of Crochets kept neuer wit in good compasse: but on I  
pray thee with the rest? Forsooth, quoth the Stripling, I  
haue reade somewhat of Geomaty. Oh quoth the Father,  
I like that well, thou meanest to saue charges, when thou  
hast timber of thine owne, thou wilt not be beholding to  
the Plough-wright: but a little more. What else? For-  
sooth quoth he, my Tutor was beginning me with Astro-  
logie. What quoth the olde man, teach thee to goe to Ven-  
nis with the whole world? No, the ball is too bigge for the  
best Racket of his bryne: but haue you looked nothing in-  
to Astronomy? Yea forsooth quoth he, and whereto, quoth  
his Father? To learne to lye in an Almanacke, to cosen  
fooles with faire weather. But what haue you learned of  
Diuinity? Forsooth quoth the youth but little as yet, onely  
a few rules of Catechising: yea so I thought, quoth olde  
Twagge? Well, this is a wretched world, to see how new  
Schoule-men, haue a new fashion in their teaching: they  
were wont to teach little children when I went first to  
schoole, before they learned one letter, to say, Christs  
crosse be my speede and the holy Ghost, but now among a  
number, Christ, his Crosse, and his holy Spirit, is so little  
taught among little schollers, that it is almost forgot a-  
mong great Masters. But leauing spelling and put toge-  
ther,



## VVits Trenchmour.

ther, which is easlie learned in a booke, let me tell you some-what of all your studies that you neuer heard yet at schoole, and if you marke it well, perhaps it shall do you no hurt. Begin first with Diuinitie, learne to know God, and know all, know not him, and know nothing: Learne to know him in his power, to loue him in his mercie, to honour him in his goodnes, to beleue him in his worde, and to confesse him in his glory. Apply this knowledge to your comfort, and be thankfull for your blessing in his grace: know him I say, humbly, loue him faithfully, serue him truly, and pray to him hartily, and so in despite of the deuill, how euer the world goe with thee, thou shalt be sure of the ioyes of heauen. Now, for your Logick, learne to maintaine a truth, and to confound the contrary: For Rhetorick, onely learne this out of it, that to speake much in a few words, is a good note of a wise Scholler. Now for Arithmatique, it is not amisse in time of hast to make a reckoning quickly: but take heede, that reckoning without an Hoast, put not thy purse to a new expence. For Musique, a merry hart is worth tenne crowdes, and a Bagpipe. And for Philosophy, it is better to vse her effects, then know her secrets: And for Moralities, be not too saucie with thy betters, nor too familiar with base people, coy to thy friends, nor too kinde to foales, and with a little obseruation of times and places, thou shalt be a Philosopher without booke. Now for Geometry, rather learne, and study to purchase Land, then build houses: for it is a cost will soone decay, and titles in these dayes are tickle holdes to trust to. Now for Astrologie, rather loue a Pole-hill of thine owne, then a Mountaine of thy neighbours: and for Astronimy, rather keepe thee in the warmth of the Sonne, then follow the shadow of the Moone: and whatsoever you learne by the booke, be sure to haue this alwayes by hart: Crumena sine pecunia, quasi corpus sine anima: A purse without money is like a body without a soule: and therefore

## VVits Trenchmour.

foze whatsoeuer you remember, forget not your purse, I  
meane your money: for when I was young, I saw manie  
do so much in many things, that there was almost nothing  
doone, (I meane for worldly matters) without it. I re-  
member, not a mile from the towne where I dwelt, I saw  
a sweet young soule married to a sowerd old Sir, onely for  
mony, & hard at the townes end many a proper man wake  
his will vpon the gallows, and onely for mony. I sawe a  
knaue that had cosend his father, lose his cares on the pil-  
lary for mony. I saw some drabone, hangd and quartered,  
for clipping of money. Some misers growe mad to part  
with their money, and poore beggers starue and die, with  
lacke of meate and drinke, and money. Why let mee tell  
thee, if thou dost continue at thy learning, it will paint thy  
studie, and furnish thee with bookes, it will clothe thy back  
and fede thy belly, it will guild thy speech, and giue fame  
to thy wit, make roome for thy presence, and keepe a cushi-  
on in thy seate: thou shalt sit vppermost at the Table, seide  
on the best dish, and not be contradicted in thy speech, but  
welcome with a world of kindnesse, where wanting that  
Earths chiefe oznamment, thou shalt haue a sachel full of  
holes, a studie without glasse windowes, bookes without  
couers, and a thred-bare Jerken without a cloake, thy belly  
pincht with lacke of victuals, thy head ake with fruitlesse  
studie, and thy hart sick with grieve of minde, thy welcome  
cold in most companies, thy place belowe thy inferiours in  
woorth, shouldered of euery Jack, and sometime stand with  
out a stoole: and therefore, if thou be a Diuine, get a Re-  
nesce, if a Whilition, get a sute, if a Grometritian, gette an  
office of surueying, if whatsoeuer, get mony, and then serue  
God, and followe what study thou wilt. So the time cal-  
ling to bed, the old woman loth to wast fire and candle, had  
shut vp doores & away: when the good man with a browne  
loafe gape, and a hey ho at the end of it, betaking me to my  
chamber, got himselfe to his Goose-rest. Where leauing

Jf.

him



## VVits Trenchmour.

him to smort with his sow, I heard no moze of his good ma-  
stership, but in the morning, having half of my way, taking  
order for my charges, gaue a farewell to the flying Ostrich,  
which was the Armes of his Inkeping, faire painted vp-  
pon the signe-post.

Now tralie Sir, quoth the Angler, I thanke you for  
your merrý tale, I thinke hee was some kinsman, or of his  
race, that you told me you had red of, who at his death left  
his sonne such a lesson to looke to his money. I thinke Sir  
quoth the Scholler, they were birds of one feather, though  
they lived not at one time: but it is strange to see sometime,  
what sharpnes of wit a man shall meete with in such a bald  
noddle. Pou say true Sir quoth the Angler, but it is pittie  
that euer good Wine should come into a fustie vessel: but  
might I intreate you for one discourse moze, of some acci-  
dent that you met with in your trauaile, and so with the set-  
ting of the sunne I will take by mine angle, and intreate  
your company to my poze house, where hauing ben a schol-  
ler & a trauailer, I hope you will take your welcome with  
a few dishes. Sir quoth the scholler, for one discourse moze  
I will not denie you, but for my trouble at your house, I  
must intreate your pardon for this night, to morrow it may  
be, I will waite on you as I come by you: for this night I  
am inuited at the keepers of the great Parks, where ha-  
uing past my word, I would keepe my promise.

Sir, quoth the Angler, vse your discretion, now to mor-  
row, or at an other time, your welcome is set downe, and  
your company desired, and therefore I beseech you, while  
I shall enioy the benefite of your good companie, let me be  
beholding to you for your discourse. Then Sir, you shall  
vnderstand quoth the Scholler, that in the time of my tra-  
uaile, comming (by occasions) as well into the Pallaces of  
Princes, as the cottages of poze people, it was my hap, yea  
I may well say, that vnder heauen it was my greatest hap-  
pines that of this worlde I euer founde, to light into the  
court.

## VVits Trenchmour.

courtlike house of a right worthy honourable Lady, the desert of whose commendations, far exceeding the stile of my study, I must leane to better wits to dilate of, while I poyntlie speake of the little world of my wonder. For in her eye was the seate of pittie, in her hart the honour of vertue, and in her hand the bounty of discretion: to see her countenance the comfortlesse, argued a diuine spirit, to heare her speak, which was neuer idle, procured an oracle of wit, to beholde her presence, might speake of a miracle in nature: to bee short, except Plato, I knew no such philosopher: except the excepted, I meane the Lady of Ladies in this world, the honour of women, and wonder of men, the teacher of witt, and the amazer of the wise, the terrifier of the proude, and the comforter of the oppressed, the beautie of Nature, the wonder of Reason, and the ioy of honour: the hand-maid of God, the heavenly creature of the Earth, and the most worthy Queene in the world, the princely Goddess, or diuine Princess, the gracious soueraine of the blessed Island of England: except I say this sun of the earths skie, I knowe not a starre of that state that can compare light with this Lady: while her thoughts keepe the square of such discretion, that no idle humour dare enter the list of her conceit. What praise can be given to that spirit, that hath so ordered the carefull course of her senses: she doth all things as shee did them not, and bleth the world as shee esteemed it not, Honour is her seruant, Vertue is her loue, Truth is her studie, and Meditation is her exercise: yet is shee affable, with such curtesie, as winnes honoꝝ in humilitie: to make an abridgement of her prayles, in a few words of her worthines, let this suffice, that Nature and Wit, Vertue and Honour, Pitty and Bounty, Care and Kindnesse, haue so wrought together in the perfecting of a peerlesse creature, that I may bite my tongue, and burne my penne, lay vp my little wits, and wish for a more diuine spirit, to enter into the conceit of her desert, ere I further shew my weaknesse,



## VVits Trenchmour.

nesse, to speake of the wonder of her commendation. But among many good parts, whereof her praise is top full, I will tell you one action, and not the least, that fell out in my time of attendance on her fauour: Her house beeing in a manner a kind of little Court, her Lorde in place of no meane commaund, her person no lesse then worthily and honourable attended, as well with Gentlewomen of excellent spirits, as diuers Gentlemen of fine carriage, besides all other seruants, each of such respect in his place, as well might giue praise to the Couernours, where hono<sup>r</sup> setteth rules of such discretion. It might perhaps seeme tedious, to set downe the truth of such particulars as deserued a generall commendation, where first, God daily serued, religion trulie preached, all quarrels anoyded, peace carefully preserved, swearing not heard of, where truth was easilie beloued, a table fully furnished, a house richly garnished, hono<sup>r</sup> kindly entertained, vertue highly esteemed, service well rewarded, and the poore blessedly relieved, might make much for the truth of my discourse, while Cyprie can but fret at her confession: but least in blowing at a coale I do but put out the fire, and obscure her praise, that may bee pend by a better spirit, let this suffice for the sum of my speech, that where the eye of honour, did set the rule of government, kindnesse was a companion in euery corner of the house: now, to this little Earths kind of Paradise, among many sundry kinde of people, came by chaunce a poore Gentleman in the ruine of his fortune, by the deuise of a close conueyance of an imagined friend brought in, hauing more wit then discretion, in the nature of a good soule, to giue this Lady cause of laughter: who no sooner sounded the substance of his wit, but with the deepe eye of her rare iudgement, percing into the humble vertue of his spirit, pittying his fortune, and perceiuing his want, made vse of his seruice in a better sence, and in the diuine nature of her blessed spirit, determined the mean of his aduancement. With her countenance she graced  
him

## VVits Trenchmour.

him, with good words she fauoured him, with her bountie, she relieved him, and would suffer no man to hurt him : for seeing honestie want maintenaunce, and vertue oppressed with malice, she did not like a helping hand to fill vp a halfe penny purse with a poore reckoning, but like herselfe in the absolute power of her honourable spirit, she comforted the afflicted minde, reuiued the hart halfe dead, and as it were drawne out of the ditch of misery, sette the spirite in the warme sunne of Gods blessing. Thus did this Princeesse entertaine thys poore Gentleman, till by the faction of the malicious, the delightfull working of the enuious, & the desert of his owne vnworthinesse, finding in the deceiuing of this his bright sun, the sinking of his too happy fauour, supping by his sorrowe to himselfe, taking leaue for a time, to trauaile about a little idle busines, in a cold snowy day passing ouer an unknowne plaine, not looking well to his way, or beeing ordained to the misery of such misfortune, fell so deepe downe into a Sump-pitte, that hee shall repent the fall while hee liues: for neuer since daring to presume, but in prayers to thinke on his faire Princeesse, and liuing in poore Cottages, to looke towards that Court-like pallace, he hath gone by & downe like a shadowe without substance, a purse without money, and a body without a spirit.

For cuer since, as he hath often told me, if he haue come among men, it hath bene like a faire of rude people, compared to the sweet company of that house, if in the company of women, like a meeting of Cossips, in respect of the gracious spirits of the sweet creatures of that little paradise: and if by chaunce in his weary passage, hee hath had any priuate conference, with some espetiall bird of the Countrey, yet for all the best notes that euer he heard, they were all Sparrowes to his Nightingale. For according to the dispositions of their minds, hee might see the weaknes of their spirits: as some would talke of nothing, but the new fashion, pinning of ruffles, starching rebaters, the Dutlan-



## VVits Trenchmour.

disht tirc, and the long bodies : the fine fluffe, and the prettie pinke, the Lawne shadow, and the cutworke Lace : other of the pyed Cow, the bay Horse, the black Sheepe, and the banded Pig : another her Salt in the hall, her Dates in the scuttle, and her Eye in the sheafe, her Cheese in the presse, and her Butter in the chermie. Now with this galimaufrey of such good matter, as filled his eares with moze sound then good sence, must he satisfie his sorrowfull hart, that, when it got him alone by him selfe, with calling to minde the excellent matter, that in variety of methode he had often heard from the mouth of his Minerva, would so fall into a sighing, that had not the heauens the better blest it, it would surely haue burst asunder. For, say quoth he, that though some few I found of extraordinary good spirits, yet among a number of these Countrey daunces, I did light on such a Caliard, as had a trick about Trenchmour, and could speake moze to the purpose, then many of the wiuces of the Parish, who hauing read many English books, could tell pretty tales of idle people, yet compare this Chri- stall with my Diamond, she would quickly shew her diuines : and among all other things, if by the reuenue of a pretty Dairy, she could priuily put by thre pence to spend at a blind bydaile, if perhaps in a good humour, she had a minde to pleasure a poore friend, it would come so dropping out of her fingers, as though it hong at her hart blood : and then perhaps with such a lesson to it, to take hede of vn-thriftines, with a shrug of the shoulders at the hardnes of the world, that it would breake the hart of a good minde, to thinke on the misery of such Almes.

To goe from Hives that giue the golden honey,  
To shilling Spirits, that will tell their money.

And then calling to mind the golden showres of his Ladies fauours, bled inwardly in the hart, with such drops of vnscene teares, as makes him like Adam out of Paradise, hope of no happines, till hee come at heauen : O, like the  
Phenix

## VVits Trenchmour.

phenix, liue in ashes, till he may get life by the vertue of his bright Sunne againe: and now this is only his worldly comfort, that she liueth, whom his hart honoureth, and his soule prayeth for, though his unworthy eye, be abandoned the blessing of his senses admiration: Who though he liue in the dungeon of sorowes darknes, will neuer cease prayer to the heauens for his bright Sunnes eternall blessednes: and that as her name doth liue onely in the high Meridianis, so her soule may be blessed in the highest Celis. Alas poore wretch, quoth the Angler, why doe your eyes water your cheekes, at the shutting vp of this discourse: If it be your selfe, be not dismaide, Princes haue gracious spirits, and great powers, who at the time of their pleasure will comfort patience in misery: and after the woe of a long Winter, giue the fruite of a little Spring, howsoeuer hope hit on a good Sommer: and therefore continue thy constancie, in thy prayer to remember the happines of thy harts honour, and feare not, but vertue will one day haue a glaunce of fauour: and therefore if I may aduise thee, let not mal-content breede a madnes, to driue thee from thy selfe to a worse companion. Serue God, and care not for the world: for I am perswaded, that shee that is made of so many exceedings, cannot but at her good time make thee happy in her comfort, who though a while shee shut vp by the hand of her bounty: yet will send thee a little of that Quintessence, that will saue thee from a deadly swound, howsoeuer sorow possesse thee. And therefore be her bead-man in thy prayers, till she make imployment of thy further seruice. And now since I see the Sunne growes so low, as will scarce giue vs light to our lodging: let me at this parting challenge your promise, that to morrow you will visite my poore cabine: which with all kindnes that I can deuise, shall be alwayes with my selfe at your command. Thus with hartly thanks each to other, with a few good words of either side, taking a kinde leaue, the Angler takes



## VVits Trenchmour.

takes vp his booke, & alway they part from the River side,  
From whence when they were gone in a manner out of  
sight, a certaine odde Diogenes of the world, like a forlorne  
creature on the earth, throlne lately out of the fortune of  
his Mistres favour, getting a Paper, booke vnder his arme,  
and a penne and Inke vnder his girdle, in a melancholike  
humour, meaning to trouble the Muses, with some dole-  
full Ballad, to the tune of all a grone willow, sitting  
downe on a little mole-hill, among a thicke growne plot of  
Dyers vnsene, in Steele of his intended peece of  
Poetry, writ as fast as he could this dis-  
course that hee heard betwixt this  
Angler, and the  
Scholler.

FINIS.

